

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1108 - SB 1238**

March 21, 2015

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes a person with a Tennessee hunting and fishing license to apply for a five-day extension of each hunting and fishing season upon payment of a \$25 fee. Such fee shall be deposited into a special fund separate from the Wildlife Resources Fund (WRF), to be expended to support Tennessee nonprofit volunteer fire departments for the purchase or the modification of apparatus equipment that complies with the National Fire Prevention Association standards, and the construction or modernization of facilities. Requires the new fund to be created within the TWRA, and no amounts in fund shall revert to the general fund at the end of any fiscal year. Requires each application to extend a hunting or fishing season be accompanied by an additional five dollar fee to defray any expenses in processing the application. Such fee shall be deposited into the WRF.

Requires the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), in consultation with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), to establish a process for a person to apply for the extension; set extended bag and creel limit seasons; designate hunting and fishing areas during extended seasons; and create standards for the disbursement of funds from the fees imposed. Authorizes the FWC to review fee amounts and recommend legislation to adjust the fee amounts on an annual basis. Creates a Class C misdemeanor offense for any person in violation of any rules promulgated by the FWC. For purposes of promulgating rules and regulations, the bill is effective upon becoming law; for all other purposes October 1, 2015.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Revenue –**

**\$3,408,900/Earmarked for Nonprofit Volunteer Fire Departments/FY15-16**

**\$4,545,200/Earmarked for Nonprofit Volunteer Fire Departments/FY16-17  
and Subsequent Years**

**\$681,800/Wildlife Resources Fund/FY15-16**

**\$909,000/Wildlife Resources Fund/FY16-17 and Subsequent Years**

**Increase State Expenditures –**

**\$272,700/Wildlife Resources Fund/FY15-16**

**\$363,600/Wildlife Resources Fund/FY16-17 and Subsequent Years**

**Other Fiscal Impact – Potential loss of approximately \$26,000,000 in recurring federal funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs.**

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Assumptions:

- TWRA projects that 1 in 4 hunting license holders will purchase an extended season license. This is equivalent to 181,807 extended licenses.
- The recurring increase in state revenue earmarked for nonprofit volunteer fire departments beginning in FY16-17 is estimated to be \$4,545,175 (181,807 x \$25.00).
- Due to the October 1, 2015 effective date, the increase in state revenue earmarked for nonprofit volunteer fire departments in FY15-16 is estimated to be 75 percent of the first full-year impact, or \$3,408,881 (\$4,545,175 x 75.0%).
- The recurring increase in state revenue to the WRF beginning in FY16-17 is estimated to be \$909,035 (181,807 x \$5.00).
- Due to the October 1, 2015 effective date, the increase in state revenue to the WRF in FY15-16 is estimated to be 75 percent of the first full-year impact, or \$681,776 (\$909,035 x 75.0%).
- According to TWRA, \$2.00 of the \$5.00 administrative fee will be spent on issuing the permit.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures from the WRF beginning in FY16-17 is estimated to be \$363,614 (181,807 x \$2.00).
- Due to the October 1, 2015 effective date, the increase in state expenditures from the WRF in FY15-16 is estimated to be 75 percent of the first full-year impact, or \$272,712 (\$363,616 x 75.0%).
- According to TWRA, allocating license revenue to volunteer fire departments would constitute a “diversion of funds” relative to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and would disqualify Tennessee from participating in the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, from which it receives approximately \$26,000,000 per year. As a result, this federal funding would be jeopardized.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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